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1981/06/18

E112



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<<<**** OASYS DOCUMENT HEADER ***>>

DOC_NBR= 81AITTA03161

FILM= D810287-0243

DATE= 18 JUN 81

TYPE= TE

FROM= AIT TAIPEI

DRAFTER= n/a

OFFICE= ACTION AIT

TO= AIT WASHDC
BEIJING

CHANNEL= n/a

ORIGHAND= n/a

ORIGPHAND= n/a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FFC/CDR	TRB Date: 12/5/96
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Caves Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> DRAFT	<input type="checkbox"/> D.L.C.	EO Citations:	
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ORIGPCLASS= n/a

EO= N/A

SUBJECT= MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE -- PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REFERENCE= 81 TAIPEI 3139

CONTROL_NBR= n/a

ENCLOSURE= n/a

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

ERRORS= N/A

CONCEPTS= PRESIDENT, TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SPEECHES

TAGS= PINT, OVIP, TW, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M JR)

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PAGE 01 AIT TA 03161 180839Z

ACTION AIT-02

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 EA-10 ICA-11
DODE-00 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 SPRS-02
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FM AIT TAIPEI

TO AIT WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE

- PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TAIPEI 3139

1. ON JUNE 17, MOFA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE GIVING "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS" ON SECRETARY HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARMS SALES TO THE PRC AND ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMENTS ON TAIWAN AT HIS WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE AS EXPECTED (REFTEL). THE TEXT OF THE MOFA RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY ANSWERED TWO QUESTIONS RAISED BY REPORTERS AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 AIT TA 03161 180839Z

1. QUESTION:

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SAID

ABOUT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 16 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

- ANSWER:

WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN REITERATED HIS FIRM INTENTION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

2. QUESTION:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG SAID TUESDAY NIGHT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN PEIPING THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD LOOSEN UP THE RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES TO THE COMMUNIST CHINA, WILL YOU MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

- ANSWER:

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THIS UNFORTUNATE DECISION, BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. WE SEE NO BENEFIT BUT HARM OUT OF THIS TO BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FREE NATIONS IN THIS REGION.
END TEXT.

THE SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS WERE CARRIED BY ALL CHINESE AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS.

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PAGE 03 AIT TA 03161 180839Z

2. WHILE THE TONE OF THE ANSWERS IS STILL CALM, THE HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR INDICATES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN, WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE REMARKS OF THE BETTER INFORMED PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN. IN ADDITION TO THE CAUTIOUS MOFA ANSWER CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF THE TRA, THERE IS A MORE UPBEAT REACTION FROM GIO DIRECTOR JAMES SOONG, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO BE MORE REASSURING TO THE LOCAL POPULATION. THOMAS

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